

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 HA-05 /082 W
-----088852 232250Z /70

R 230845Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8166
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 4202

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINR,AF, SHUM
SUBJECT: CALL ON MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL ABDUL
HAKIM SHARAE

1. ON MAY 20, I CALLED ON ABDUL HAKIM SHARAE, THE NEW MINISTER
OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHAN-
ISTAN (DRA).

2. SHARAE IS A HANDSOME, NEAT, WELL-DRESSED, SOFT-SPOKEN UZBEK
OF SLIGHT BUILD, PERHAPS 5 FEET 6 INCHES IN HEIGHT. HE CLAIMED NOT
TO SPEAK ENGLISH, AND THE CONVERSATION WAS CONDUCTED IN DARI (AFGHAN
PERSIAN). SHARAE IS FROM SHIBARGHAN IN JAUZJAN PROVINCE, NORTHERN
AFGHANISTAN.

3. SHARAE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD BEEN GRADUATED SOME EIGHTEEN
YEARS AGO FROM THE FACULTY OF SHARIAT LAW AT KABUL UNIVERSITY.
HE LATER WORKED FOR A TIME IN THE FACULTY OF LETTERS. SUBSEQUENTLY,
SHARAE WORKED FOR THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE, WRITING
FOR THE NEWSPAPERS "ANIS" AND "ISLAH," THE MAGAZINE "FOLKLORE," AND
RADIO AFGHANISTAN. ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO, THE DAOUD REGIME FIRED
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HIM AND SENT HIM HOME "TO SIT."

4. TURNING TO SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS, SHARAE STRESSED TO ME THE
DESIRE OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO REMAIN NON-ALIGNED. HE REPEATED THE
OFT-HEARD DRA CLAIM THAT IT WILL MEASURE ITS FOREIGN FRIENDS BY
HOW MUCH ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE THEY PROVIDE. SHARAE ALSO EMPHASIZED
THAT HIS REGIME WAS DEDICATED TO THE ERADICATION OF "FEUDALISM"

(WHICH, INCIDENTLLY, STILL EXISTS IN AFGHANISTAN).

5. WITH REFERENCE TO HIS OWN FIELD OF RESPONSIBILITY, SHARAE DE-
SCRIBED THE HORRIBLE CONDITION OF THE PRISONS IN THE DAOUDIST ERA.
HE SAID THAT HIS MINISTRY IS LOOKING INTO THE EARLY RELEASE OF
AGED AND SICKLY PRISONERS. ACCORDING TO THE JUSTICE MINISTER, THE DRA
IS GOING TO FOLLOW A HUMANITARIAN APPROACH TO JUSTICE.

6. ASKED ABOUT THE CRIMINAL AND CIVIL CODES WHICH ENTERED INTO EFFECT
LAST YEAR, SHARAE COMMENTED THAT CERTAIN SECTIONS WOULD HAVE TO
BE REVIEWED AND PERHAPS REVISED BECAUSE THEY ARE TOO HARSH.

7. COMMENT: SHARAE MAKES AN EXCELLENT FIRST IMPRESSION.
ELIOT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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